

**From:** mthomas@m3technologies.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 07, 2007 4:45 PM  
**To:** Special Permits <PHMSA>  
**Subject:** Special Permit Emergency Request

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
SECURITY

07 DEC -5 PM 3: 37

SP-14608  
Application

**Attachments:** trucks DOT photos 001.jpg; 20071107151414876.pdf  
Dear Delmar Billings,

PHMSA-2007-0081

I represent Ultimate Adventure Ballooning LLC. located at 205 Lange Dr. Washington Mo. 63090 phone 636-239-6060. (USDOT # 1698240) Our company provides corporate advertising with the use of hot air balloons. We provide advertising at various events which last many hours and requires us to consume large amounts of liquid propane. Post 9/11 we have found it difficult or nearly impossible to get a propane supplier to bring liquid propane on site for our purposes. They are unable to fill a US Registered Aircraft off of their own property. In order to fulfill our obligations to our clients, we developed a safe, robust, form of transporting our own fuel, for our own use on site.

We have recently been working with Missouri Dept. of Transportation and the U.S. Dept. of Transportation (Pipeline & Hazardous Material Safety Administration) to determine the correct classification for our five hot air balloon chase vehicles. Each vehicle carries two ASME 65.1 gal. motor fuel tanks, manufactured by Manchester Tank. The tanks are for the purpose of private transportation and use of liquid propane (LP). In working with the above mentioned agencies, we have come to realize that these tanks manufactured by Manchester Tank, are ASME tanks and not DOT approved.

At time of purchase, earlier this year, we were told by the manufacturer that these tanks were DOT approved. From our dealings with MODOT and the U.S. DOT we have been instructed to seek a special use permit from your agency to operate on an ongoing basis with the tanks we currently have.

We would like to submit this request on an emergency basis. At the current time our business is losing income due to the loss of use of the vehicles with the above mentioned tanks. These trucks are used to transport our balloons and fuel which is vital to our operations. If the situation continues as it is currently, our company is looking at losing an estimated amount of \$500,000.00 to 1 million dollars annually, this equals to approximately 98% of our annual income. In very short time we would be forced to cease operations.

Per the attached manufacturers build sheets, these tanks were designed to be mounted on large vehicles, such as school busses, to carry and provide fuel to the engine of that vehicle. We use these tanks to transport fuel to our event sites for use in our hot air balloons. We have mounted these tanks on our vehicles in such a manner that they are extremely well protected and achieves a level of safety that is at least to that required by a DOT regulated tanks and was designed with public interest and safety in mind (see attached photo). The weight of both of these tanks, full at 65.1 gal. each, is less than 1,000 pounds.

We would like to request a special permit, to be granted immediately, to continue to carry these tanks as we currently do so as not to cripple our business and cause us to cease operations.

Sincerely,

Mike Thomas  
President  
Ultimate Adventure Ballooning, LLC  
205 Lange Dr  
Washington, MO 63090  
p 636-239-6060  
f 636-239-3580  
c 618-401-0774  
e mthomas@uabaviation.com